

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2172

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1326

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT RO

SUBJ: CEAUSESCU INTERVIEW BY ASSOCIATED PRESS--COMMENTS OCH
EMIGRATION/MFN LINKAGE

1. CEAUSESCU INTERVIEW BY AP CORRESPONDENT OTTO DOELLING
MARCH 25, PUBLISHED TODAY BY ROMANIAN PRESS, CONTAINS FIRST
DIRECT REFERENCE BY ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP TO MFN/EMIGRATION
LINKAGE IN TRADE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. EMBASSY TRANSLATION
OF RELEVANT PORTION FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN QUOTE

QUESTION: THE U.S. CONGRESS HAS LINKED TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH
EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO THE EMIGRATION ISSUE. WHAT IS YOUR
FEELING ABOUT THIS LINKAGE? DOES IT CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR
ROMANIA?

ANSWER: I MUST SAY RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING THAT SOME PROVISIONS
PADOPTED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS REGARDING ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE
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SOCIALIST COUNTRIES--BUT ALSO WITH OTHER COUNTRIES --

ARE NOT SUCH AS TO FAVOR THE EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL
TRADE. THE SOLUTION OF THE EMIGRATION PROBLEM, OF HUMAN-1*
85-48-, 049?)3. , LIES WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF EACH
INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY AND SHOULD NOT BECOME A MEANS OF
EXERTING PRESSURE IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS.
EACH COUNTRY HAS ITS OWN EMIGRATION LAWS, INCLUDING THE
UNITED STATES.

WITHOUT QUESTION, THESE PROVISIONS OF THE U.S. TRADE ACT
CREATE A SERIES OF DIFFICULTIES FOR ROMANIA AS WELL. I HOPE
THE CONCLUSION WILL BE REACHED, HOWEVER, THAT ONE SHOULD
GIVE UP INSISTING ON SUCH PROVISIONS.

QUESTION: IF THESE PROVISIONS ARE NOT GIVEN UP WILL ROMANIA
CONTINUE COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES?

ANSWER: AT THE PRESENT MOMENT, WE ARE CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS
WITH A VIEW TO SIGNING A COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT AND WILL CONTINUE
TO CARRY ON TALKS -- BASED OF COURSE ON FULL EQUALITY IN RIGHTS
AND RESPECT FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MAKING A CLEAR STATEMENT OF BOTH
ROMANIAN PRINCIPLES AND UNHAPPINESS WITH SOME ASPECTS
OF THE TRADE BILL CEAUSESCU EQUALLY CLEARLY STOPPED WELL
SHORT OF MAKING ELIMINATION OF THE MFN/EMIGRATION LINKAGE
A CONDITION FOR SIGNING A TRADE AGREEMENT. HE SAID IN FACT
THAT TALKS ARE CONTINUING "WITH A VIEW TO SIGNING" EVEN IF
"THESE PROVISIONS" ARE NOT REMOVED. WHILE HEDGED WITH THE
USUAL QUALIFICATIONS -- ACCOUNT MUST BE TAKEN OF NATIONAL
INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND FULL EQUALITY OF RIGHTS --
CEAUSESCU'S COMMENTS, INCLUDING REMARKS LATER IN THE INTZBVIEW
ON THE ADVANTAGES ROMANIA SEES IN MFN STATUS, SHOW HE IS
INCLINED TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT UNDER EXISTING CONDITIONS IF
THIS CAN BE DONE WITHOUT TOO MUCH PUBLIC VIOLENCE TO ROMANIA'S
OFT-STATED PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS; I.E., WITHOUT
OBVIOUSLY PUTTING ROMANIA IN THE POSITION OF ALLOWING ANOTHER
COUNTRY TO INTERVENE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IN REFERRING
TO OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH ALSO HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE TRADE
BILL, CEAUSESCU WAS PROBABLY THINKING ONE OF HIS PRINCIPAL
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DIFFICULTIES WILL BE TO JUSTIFY SIGNING A TRADE AGREEMENT--
DESPITE THE EMIGRATION LINKAGE-2) IN THE FACE OF OPPOSITION
BY THE USSR AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. CEAUSESCU PROBABLY
HAD TWO AIMS IN RESPONDING TO DOELLING'S QUESTIONS ON THE
TRADE AGREEMENT (1) INDIRECTLY TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THIS
ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM AND THEREBY GAIN MORE SYMPATHETIC AND
DISCREET HANDLING OF THE EMIGRATION ISSUE IN THE U.S. AND (2)
TO REAFFIRM FOR DOMESTIC AND ESPECIALLY EASTERN EUROPEAN

CONSUMPTION ROMANIAN WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER A TRADE AGREEMENT
EVDG IF OBAGCOHONABLE PROVIS
NS NOT DROPPED. FINALLY,
CEAUSESCU'S COMMENTS MAY ALSO REPRESENT A NOTE OF MILD
PRESIDENTIAL IMPATIENCE WITH SLOW PACE OF EVENTS LEADING
TO CONCLUSION OF TRADE AGR XMENT WHICH HE MAY FIND INCREASINGLY
DIFFICULT BOTH TO COMPREHEND AND TO AHURECIATE.
BARNES

NOTE BY OC/T: TEXT AS RECEIVED.

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